

# LEPC Connections

A Virginia Local Emergency Planning Committee Newsletter

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## Regional Terrorism Grants Planned for 1999

By Brett A. Burdick  
PG, CHMM

Virginia Department of Emergency Services

Two years ago I addressed a group of Virginia's fire chiefs regarding federal funding available to states and local jurisdictions to assist them in preparing for a terrorist incident. Unless your city or county was one of the 120 largest nationwide (by population) – and Virginia has six of these jurisdictions – you did not receive any direct federal funding.

The only funding available was a small sum channeled to state emergency management agencies by FEMA. This sum,

while welcome, was inadequate. In Virginia, four years of federal funding amounted to approximately \$100,000, or an average of about \$200 per year for each of Virginia's local emergency management jurisdictions.

The good news is this year there is considerably more federal funding available. FEMA funding for 1999 in Virginia has risen to \$200,000. In addition, a significant amount of federal funding has been targeted to assist the largest jurisdictions.

In Virginia, the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Newport News, and Richmond and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax are slated to receive a combined total of about \$1.6 million. These communities will be contacted by the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the process involved in applying for these funds.

The bad news is that no other Virginia communities are targeted for direct federal grants.

Along with the funding targeted to these seven communities, the Commonwealth is slated to receive approximately \$500,000 for the purchase of equipment to respond to terrorism. This amount is to be granted directly to the Governor and will be utilized to improve Virginia's ability to respond to a terrorist incident.

The Department of Emergency Services (VDES) will use this year's FEMA grant money to enable local jurisdictions to enhance their terrorism consequence management capabilities. A significant amount of Virginia's terrorism response capabilities revolve around the 13 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams under contract to VDES.

This year each of those communities involved with the Hazardous Materials Response Program will receive some planning assistance and terrorism response training, and will be asked to participate in



an exercise involving a terrorist incident or a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). Information on this effort will be delivered to those localities in the near future.

Other terrorism-related activities for this year will include continued delivery of the VDES 8-hour Awareness-level course, *Public Safety Response to Terrorism*, delivery of the 16-hour management-level course, *Public Safety Response to Terrorism - Management Considerations*, and performing a state agency Emergency Operations Center table-top exercise in Richmond.

VDES will also assist local governments in their terrorism consequence management planning efforts as needed.

Virginia will continue its efforts to ensure that all of our communities are capable of responding to the consequences of a terrorist act. Local communities are encouraged to take advantage of the training and planning assistance that is currently available and being developed in the upcoming year. ☼

## We Would Like to Hear From You

This newsletter is a vehicle for LEPCs to exchange information and keep abreast of state and federal initiatives.

Tell us what you are doing. We'll publish any stories, initiatives, projects, studies, or issues that you think would be of interest to LEPCs and the Virginia hazardous materials response community.

Please mail your comments or recommendations to:

"LEPC Connection"  
Virginia Department of  
Emergency Services  
Technological Hazards Division  
10501 Trade Court  
Richmond, VA 23236-3713  
Fax (804) 897-6576  
email: groarty.des@state.va.us

# Area committees prepare for worst-case discharges of oil

*By Colby Stanton*  
**U.S. EPA Region III  
On-Scene Coordinator**

Effective planning for oil and hazardous materials emergencies requires the involvement of numerous layers of government, public organizations, and private industry. The National Response System now mandates national, regional, local, and facility plans.

Congress has passed several laws affecting and augmenting these plans. Just as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act required local governments to develop LEPCs and LEPC plans, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA90) requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Coast Guard to establish Area Committees, consisting of federal, state, and local government representatives, to prepare for worst-case discharges of oil.

In the years since OPA90 was passed, EPA Region III has appointed an Inland Area Committee, chaired by EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Steve Jarvela, and developed an Inland Area Contingency Plan (IACP) for the entire area covered by EPA Region III—Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

Since the IACP was completed, EPA has expanded its inland area planning effort, forming subcommittees called “subareas” to increase the coordination of local, state, and federal planning efforts.

The Area Committee’s primary purpose for establishing the subareas was to involve local officials, industry, and other interested public and private organizations in Area Planning under OPA90. Subareas are smaller geographic areas, allowing closer interactions between federal, state, and local responders.

An EPA OSC has been tasked with establishing and leading a committee for each subarea. Although Area Committees were established under OPA90 primarily to plan for responses to discharges of oil, subarea plans typically incorporate both hazardous materials and oil planning, since the

same people respond to both types of incidents at the federal, state, and local levels.

Subarea plans, like the IACP and the regional contingency plans created before them, do not replace but are used in conjunction with existing state and local plans. In most cases, subarea plans provide guidance primarily to the federal OSCs in aligning their response activities with those already in place in the local jurisdictions.

Relevant information or developments are then incorporated by state and local jurisdictions into their own applicable plans. It is EPA’s expectation and experience thus far

where subarea planning has been implemented, that the process will facilitate timely and effective response to and recovery from releases of hazardous substances and oil.

Several EPA OSCs have been assigned subareas that include portions of Virginia, as shown on the inset map. Each OSC and each subarea committee has taken its

own approach to developing a plan, and the subareas have provided an even more important benefit – a forum for discussion among federal, state, and local responders.

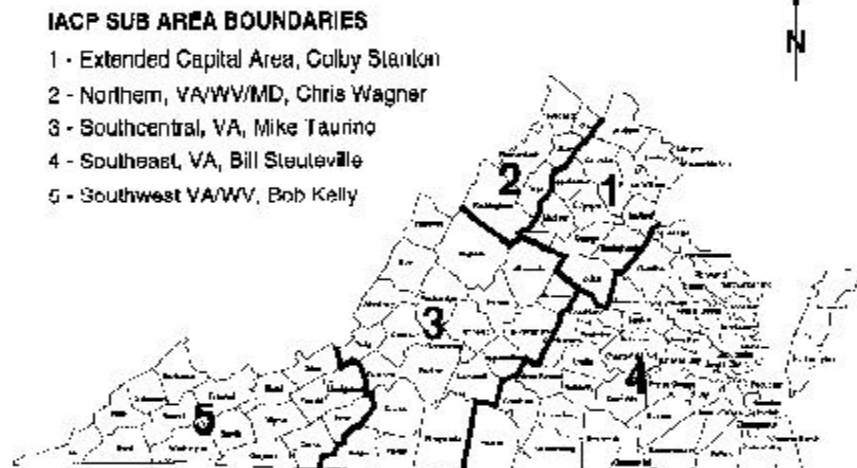
For example, as the newly appointed Chair of the Extended Capital Area Subcommittee, I’ve had the invaluable opportunity to meet with state and local representatives and discuss issues of importance to all of us: the capabilities of local responders, the potential roles for federal responders, and procedures for accessing the Superfund and Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

As a result, I have been invited to attend upcoming LEPC meetings, and I look forward to more interaction in the future.

Information on the Inland Area Committee and its activities is available on the web at:

[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/iacp/r3iacp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/iacp/r3iacp.htm)

or you can call Steve Jarvela at (215) 814-3259 or me at (215) 814-3299 if you have any questions about subarea planning or would like to get in touch with the OSC in charge of the area that includes your LEPC. ☼





## Progress Report:

# Virginia Hazardous Materials Database

## *Where we are and where we hope to go*

*By George Roarty  
Manager, CEP Branch, DES*

The distribution of the Hazardous Materials Database and zip drives to the 13 regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams and Hazardous Materials Officers was completed in March of this year. The data for each of the respective team service areas was initially placed on zip disks and distributed. The data included resource information from a survey of LEPCs conducted last summer.

The data for the entire state by team area was then placed on a CD and distributed to team leaders at their annual meeting March 29th in Roanoke. Teams now have access to the entire database and can transfer data for any team area into their CAMEO software for planning, training, or operational purposes.

We are developing a simplified program that will allow jurisdictional data to be compressed on 3-1/2-inch floppy disks and extracted into local CAMEO systems involving very few steps. We hope to begin distribution of the data to local jurisdictions within the next few weeks. Data transfer and update procedures will be included with the data.

The CAMEO software program includes a mapping component that was not developed as part of this project due to funding and staff constraints. However, we have had some preliminary discussions with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in regard to not only locating facilities on base maps but integrating components of their GIS with our database.

Ideally we would like to incorporate not only the chemical facilities on a map,

but other types of facilities that comprise the emergency management infrastructure such as hospitals, rescue squads, fire stations, shelters, etc., as well as facilities at risk (e.g., nursing homes, day care centers, adult homes, schools, etc.). The Virginia Economic Development Partnership already has incorporated hospitals and schools into their GIS.

We have agreed to work with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in developing the information we would like to see incorporated. We are optimistic that the data developed will be transferred into MARPLOT and distributed to the LEPCs. The data will support a variety of applications in preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery

activities relating to not only hazardous materials but all hazards.

We are also working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in exploring strategies to strengthen data exchange capabilities between the two agencies and support the maintenance of the hazardous materials database. We are pursuing the feasibility of developing an on-line system that would facilitate data transfer and enhance the overall local/state interface. We are currently assessing software and hardware infrastructure at the EOC to identify the necessary requirements.

It should be emphasized that these initiatives will take some time to implement; however, we are confident that much of this can be accomplished in the upcoming fiscal year. ☼

## *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

### Contingency Planning for Airline/Airport HAZMAT

Date: June 9, 1999

Place: Wylie Theater

Transportation School, Building 705  
Ft. Eustis, VA.

Time: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Speakers:

Hank Baird, Airpack of Virginia

Bob Chipkevitch, National Transportation Safety Board

Janet McLaughlin and Kevin Toth, FAA

John Jakolski, FBI, Norfolk

Captain Denny Martin, Dulles Airport HAZMAT Response Team



**To Register: Call (804) 897-6571**

# Regional LEPC Councils Proposed

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act established Local Emergency Planning Committees to strengthen the interface between the stakeholders involved in the chemical emergency preparedness process, thereby enhancing preparedness initiatives and response capabilities, while improving the overall level of communication between the parties involved.

Since the program's inception, the planning focus has been primarily on the development and maintenance of local and state hazardous materials emergency response plans. Although the hazardous materials emergency response organization is based on a regional framework, the regional planning, resource, and training components have not been developed to their full potential.

Growth in the Commonwealth's economic base, population density, and traffic volumes, coupled with a more technologically dependent and environmentally sensitive society, place more demands on HAZMAT response and the overall emergency management infrastructure currently in place.

Incidents that were once considered local in nature have a greater potential of having an impact on one or more surrounding jurisdictions due to the growth that has occurred and the supporting infrastructure.

To some degree, the Hazardous Materials Database project has improved the regional response team's accessibility to local facility, chemical, and resource information. Although a number of issues still need to be addressed in order to ensure the maintenance and expansion of the database, it will be a valuable tool in developing regional profiles of each of the HAZMAT team areas if fully developed and supported by all the stakeholders.

These profiles will assist in developing resource and training needs more tailored to the characteristics of the area served.

In order to encourage the development of regional initiatives, we are proposing that LEPC councils be established in each of the HAZMAT team regions. It is recommended that the Councils be comprised of two representatives from

each of the LEPCs/jurisdictions within the HAZMAT team service area.

The frequency of meetings can be determined by the participating LEPCs but should not be more than a few times a year. The purpose of the Councils would be to provide a forum for LEPCs to broaden the scope of local preparedness initiatives by identifying regional needs and shortfalls, developing strategies to address these needs, establishing regional priorities, and exploring potential savings through regional resource acquisitions.

The Councils would also improve the delivery of technical assistance and local/state interface by providing a forum to address local and regional concerns of a number of jurisdictions within an operational area on a more frequent and regular basis. Issues dealing with planning, training, mitigation, response, recovery, and data management could be addressed in a more comprehensive and coordinated manner, while integrating all levels of government within the region.

Regional response capabilities could be enhanced by developing and conducting training more tailored to regional needs. This training could test ICS/Unified

Command in a regional setting, for example, and allow for the identification of potential operational issues (e.g., communications), as well as resource needs and shortfalls.

The regional terrorism exercises planned in the upcoming fiscal year hopefully will bring some of these issues to the surface (see article on front page). The regional interaction the Councils will provide may motivate less active LEPCs within a region to reorganize and/or strengthen their existing organizational framework. Although the LEPC framework was developed for chemical emergencies, it can support an all-hazards program. Chesterfield County is a good example of this.

The LEPCs in the Bristol and Wise HAZMAT Team regions held a joint meeting in April and agreed to continue to meet on a periodic basis to discuss issues of mutual concern.

We strongly welcome your comments on this proposal and are ready to assist any region in developing their Council. Please forward any comments, questions, or recommendations you may have regarding this proposal to George Roarty at [groarty.des@state.va.us](mailto:groarty.des@state.va.us).

## *LEPC Preparedness Grants Available*

The Virginia Department of Emergency Services will be submitting the FY1999 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant application to USDOT by mid-June. The HMEP Grant program provides LEPCs the opportunity to fund a variety of initiatives and improve the overall level of hazard materials preparedness within their emergency planning districts.

Over the past several years, the amount of grant funds awarded to the Commonwealth has been approximately \$47,000. Seventy-five percent, or \$35,000 of this allocation, is passed to LEPCs each year. In order to assist in the preparation of the state application, LEPCs are requested to submit letters of intent detailing the type of project they would like to apply for, a general outline of the proposed scope of work, estimated cost of the project, the method of satisfying the match requirements of the grant, and what assistance they expect from the state.

Once the letters of intent are received, an application package is sent out to the LEPCs.

Projects that can be considered under the HMEP grant program must fall under the broad categories of plan development, improvement, compliance, and advanced exercise. Types of projects that have been supported under the program have included commodity flow studies, development of databases that support the planning process, hazards analysis, regional drills, etc. The grant does not allow for the purchase of equipment.

Letters soliciting subgrant proposals went out recently to all LEPCs. Letters of Intent must be submitted by LEPCs to the VDES Technological Hazards Division, Chemical Emergency Preparedness Branch by June 4, 1999. If you have any questions regarding the program, contact George Roarty at (804) 897-6574 or email [groarty.des@state.va.us](mailto:groarty.des@state.va.us)